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LETTER DATED 9 FEBRUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BURUNDI TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, President of the Republic of Burundi, a very important meeting of the Conciliation Framework and of all political partners was held in Bujumbura on Tuesday, 7 February 1995.

In addition to the Prime Minister, Mr. Anatole Kanyenkiko, the participants included the members of the National Security Council, the Bureau of the National Assembly and the Bureau of the Forum for the Negotiations which led to the Convention of Government of 10 September 1994, as well as the heads of the authorized political parties which were signatories to this Convention.

On the agenda was the important question relating to the political crisis which had arisen in connection with the implementation of the Convention of Government. Only the ANADDE party did not participate in this meeting. Excerpts from the press release issued by the advisers to the President of the Republic are set forth below.

"Following a lengthy, sincere and calm discussion, all the participants agreed on the following conclusions:

"1. The imperative need for the Convention of Government to be applied scrupulously in respect of both the structure and the settlement mechanisms relating to the formation of the Government.

"2. Should the various partners and signatories to the Convention of Government who formed a consensus around the Prime Minister, Mr. Anatole Kanyenkiko, stop demonstrating their support for him and transfer it to another person, he will accept that and will bow to the decisions of these Convention partners.

"3. In concluding this meeting, the President of the Republic emphasized the following points:

"(a) All conflicts and disputes as to the interpretation and application of the Convention of Government should be settled by means of the mechanisms and frameworks provided for in the aforesaid Convention, especially the Monitoring Committee and the Conciliation Framework.

"(b) The opposition political parties are invited to notify the President of the Republic as soon as possible as to whether or not they still have confidence in the current Prime Minister. This should take place across the entire spectrum of the opposition which should, as provided for in the Convention, obtain the consensus of the other partners, namely, the forces of democratic change and of civil society.

"(c) Should the current Prime Minister no longer be the subject of political consensus, the opposition political parties will be invited by the President of the Republic to nominate another candidate for the post of Prime Minister in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Convention of Government.

"(d) The new Prime Minister would then be responsible for forming a new Government in accordance with the provisions of the Convention of Government, especially articles 25, 26 and 27 thereof.

"(e) The other aspects of the application of the Convention of Government, as referred to in the Monitoring Committee's statement of 27 December 1994, will be taken up once the new Government is in place.

"4. Life and activities have returned to normal in Bujumbura as from today, Wednesday, 8 February 1995. The President of the Union pour le Progrès National (UPRONA) party has declared his satisfaction with the outcome of the meeting on the question of the governmental crisis and has suspended the orders which he had given to opposition activists in the event that there was no favourable resolution of this crisis before today."

The favourable outcome of this meeting of the Conciliation Framework shows, if proof were still needed, that Burundi still has resources at its disposal with which to overcome difficulties, of which there are many at this stage of its democratization process. The Burundian leaders have the political will and the resources required to solve any problems which may arise so as to maintain the momentum of national reconciliation and of the institutional normalization currently under way.

The Government of Burundi highly appreciates the positive contribution of the Security Council, especially its sending a second good-offices mission to Burundi, and will spare no effort to achieve a rapid stabilization of the political, economic and social situation in the country.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tharcisse NTAKIBIRORA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative